

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Amendment to the Claims

Prior to entry of the present amendments, claims 27-36, 38-42, and 52 were pending in this application. Claims 28-34, 38-40, and 42 were allowed, claims 27, 35, 36, 41 and 52 were objected to.

Claims 27, 35, 36, 41 and 52 have been amended. Claim 33, the subject matter of which is now incorporated into claim 27, has been canceled. All amendments are of formal nature and do not add new matter.

The Office Action

Information Disclosure Statements

According to the Office Action, references WO 94/08241 and WO 94/10306 were not considered because no translation has been provided for these non-English publications. The present submission is accompanied by a Second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, submitting a copy of US Patent No. 6,051,384, which is the U.S. equivalent of WO 94/08241. Applicants are not aware of any English-language equivalent of WO 94/10306, but note that this PCT publication includes an English-language abstract, the consideration of which is respectfully requested. In addition, Applicants request that the Examiner acknowledge the consideration of the Supplemental Information Statement filed on September 1, 2005, by returning an initialed copy of the corresponding PTO-1449 form.

Priority

Applicants note the acknowledgement of the claimed foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) for this application.

Claim Objections

Claims 27, 35, 36, 41 and 52 were objected to because of certain roman numerals in these claims. The present amendments of these claims is believed to obviate this objection.

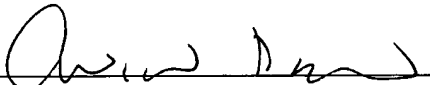
CONCLUSION

All claims pending in this application are believed to be in *prima facie* condition for allowance, and an early action to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-1641 (Attorney Docket No.: 39749-0002APC). Please direct any calls in connection with this application to the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 29, 2005



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